

Not used

Def.Doc.#1959

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: OMORI Sogen

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

My name is OMORI Sogen. I am a priest in a temple called TOJO-IN located at TOJI-IN Kitamachi, Kamikyo-Ku Kyoto.

I was formerly known as OMORI Issei. Deploing the national situation, I had been taking part in a national reform movement since 1925-26 (14th or 15th year of Taisho) and came to know SUZUKI Zenichi who had been taking part in similar movement since 1928-29 (3rd or 4th year of Showa).

The SHIMPEI-TAI Incident which was to be carried out on July 7, 1933 (8th year of Showa) and later postponed to the 11th of the same month had been planned by SUZUKI Zenichi and his group. Minister of War General ARAKI, Sadao was the chief object of their assassination. I would here like to relate this fact.

On the night of July 5, 1933, I heard of this plan in detail from SUZUKI, Zenichi who was the chief of staff in the

Def.Doc.#1959

SHIMPEI-TAI and was asked to take an active part in the plan. I not only opposed this plan, but did what I could to emphasize my opposition and advised to stop the plan, going with SUZUKI Zenichi to the commander of the SHIMPEI-TAI MAEDA, Torao, the staff-officers KATAOKA, Shun, OKUKO, Tario, and others, who were staying at the MANNEN-YA Hotel at 6-chome Aoyama Kita-machi, Akasaka Ward. This was because General ARAKI was counted among their objects of attack. That is, according to this plan, Minister of War General ARAKI was to be attacked at the Commencement of the Military Academy or on his way to the place.

According to SUZUKI, the Chief of Staff of the SHIMPEI-TAI, the reason for making Minister of War ARAKI as an object for attack was that Gen. ARAKI's negative attitude of trying to keep the Manchurian Incident within the narrowest possible limits by his non-expansion policy was in accordance with the policies of the conservatives of the political parties and the ZAIBATSU, thus interfering with the realization of the reformers' continental policy of securing the nation's life line. Therefore it was planned to kill Gen. ARAKI, and to place Gen. HAYASHI, Senjuro at the head of the War Ministry with the purpose of accomplishing their more positive policy. General HAYASHI had been the Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Korea at the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident and was popularly known by a brave nickname of EKKYO SHOGUN (a general crossing the borders without the Emperor's permission).

Def.Doc.#1959

However, because I had always held the greatest reverence for General ARAKI's personal character and respected his views on our national Constitution and the Imperial Army I interceded with the aforementioned men. Gen. ARAKI told me that the Japanese should obey the august benevolence of the Emperor and serve to manifest the Imperial virtues, and that it was absolutely necessary to avoid anything like war, and even in an unavoidable self-defensive war, to prevent its damages as much as possible. Accordingly he made every possible effort concerning the Manchurian Incident, from this viewpoint, to prevent an all-front war between China and Japan by settling it as soon as possible.

For the above reasons I opposed such an extreme action plan to assassinate this sound and moderate general with a view to aggravating the Manchurian Incident, not only for the General's sake but because I knew it should not be allowed for the national welfare as well. However, by some circumstances in the SHIMPEI-TAI the time of action was postponed to July 11 and the plotters were arrested early on the morning of the 11th before they could carry out their plan in any way.

on this 1st day of April, 1947
at Tokyo

Deponent OMORI, Sogen (seal)

Def.Doc.#1959

I, SUGAHARA, Yutaka hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: (signed) SUGAHARA, Yutaka (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

OMORI, Sogen (seal)

Not used

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り直誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

宣誓供述書

供述者

大森曹玄

荒木

貞

其
他

對

亞
六
和
加
合
衆
國
其
他

極東國際軍事裁判所

一、私は大森曹玄と申し、京都市上京區等持院北町の等持院といふ寺院の僧侶であります

一、私は元、大森一雄と稱し、大正十四、五年頃から、時局を憂ひて國家革新運動に携つて居りましたが、昭和三、四年頃から同様な運動に従つてゐた鈴木善一君等と知己になつて居りました

一、昭和八年七月七日（延期されて十一日に變更）に實行さるべく計畫された所謂神兵隊事件は、同君等によつてなされたものであります

一、該事件に於て當時の陸軍大臣荒木大將が主要なる變遷目標であつた事實に就て申し上げます

一、昭和八年七月五日の夜、神兵隊の參謀長たる鈴木善一君から同事件の詳細なる計畫を示されて、之に参加すべく要求されました。併し私は之に反對すると共に、更に鈴木君と共に、神兵隊司令前田虎雄、同隊參謀片岡段、同奥戸足百君等の集つてゐた赤坂區青山北町六丁目、万年房旅館に赴いて、右の人々に對し極力反對論を力説し、同計畫の中止方を勸告致しました。

其理由は荒木大將が襲撃の目標に数へられてゐたからであります
 即ち同計畫によれば、昭和八年七月七日陸軍大學卒業式に臨む筈
 であつた荒木陸相を途中か式場にて激襲する事になつてゐました
 一、荒木陸相を襲撃目標とした理由は、鈴木神長陸軍參謀長の言によ
 れば、滿洲事變を不撓大方針にて極めて小範圍に食ひ止め處置せ
 んとする荒木陸相の消極主義は政黨、財閥等の保守派の意見に従
 ふものであつて、革新派の採るところの生命線確保の爲めの大陸
 政策遂行を阻害するものであるから之を斃し、滿洲事變勃發當時
 朝鮮軍司令官として、趙境將軍の勇名をはせた林銑十郎大將を坦
 いで積極策を遂行せしめんとするにありました。

一、然るに私は豫て荒木大將の人格に私淑し、其國體觀、皇軍意識
 に對して敬意を表してゐたのであります。即ち大將の恩顧は、口
 本人は仁愛の大御心を體し、皇徳の發揮に奉仕せねばならぬとい
 ふにあり、従つて戦争の如きは絶対に之れを避け已むを得ざる防
 衛戦争に於ても其災害を極力防止しなければならぬといふにあり

ました。されば滿洲事變の處置も、この見地から日支の全面的戦争にならぬよう急速に終せしめねばならぬと、凡ゆる努力を拂つて居られたのであります。

一故に私はこの懸念中正なる大將を斃し、滿洲事變を密植化せんとする過激なる行動に同意することは獨り大將の爲め許りではなく、國家の爲めに許すべからざるものととして反對したのであります。而して同事件は豫内の事情により七月十一日決行に豫定が變更されましたが、十一日早曉決行に先立ち檢査されて遂に事なきを得たのであります。

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）四月一日於

東京都世田谷區世田谷一丁目九七九番地

供託者 大 森 曹 玄

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルニトテ證
明シマス

同日於同所

立會人

菅 原 裕

良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ何事ヲモ欺瞞セズ又何事ヲモ附加セザル
コトヲ誓フ

宣

誓

書

署名捺印

大森 曹 玄